The member then gave a detailed picture of the great inconvenience to which Vakils and parties were being put for want of proper accommodation in the civil and criminal courts at Kottayam and in the Munsiff-Magistrate's court at Changanachery, and he referred in particular to the want of a prisoners' dock in the Changanachery Magistrate's court.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Thomas, a better and quicker disposal of work in courts is engaging the attention of the High Court and they are taking stringent measures to see that there is quick and effective improvement. You find it mentioned in paragraph 13 of my address delivered yesterday. In regard to combination of civil and criminal powers in Munsiff-Magistrates' courts, I agree with you that it is not an ideal arrangement, but necessity and expediency have on rare occasions made it necessary to have recourse to this arrangement. But I may assure you, it is not going to be one of the permanent systems of judicial administration in Travancore. It is only a passing feature.

In regard to the first question namely the question of a committee to enquire into and suggest remedies for Laws Delays, Government did propose to appoint a committee, but the representatives of the people voicing their views in the Legislative Council refused sanction to the appointment of such a committee and naturally therefore it had to be dropped.

In regard to the third point namely proper accommodation for civil and and criminal courts in the Kottayam Division, you have drawn a very vivid picture of the present state of affairs. I hope it will not be long before these pass out of existence. The Chief Engineer is preparing plans and estimates for buildings to house District Munsiffs' courts, Stationary Magistrates' courts, Panchayat courts, offices of Sirkar Vakils and also Dewan Peishkar's office, Division Assistant's office and Taluk cutcherry. We must first see what the estimates come to, how the plans appear and then after careful consideration Government will be in a position to consider the point.

MEMBER : The provision of a prisoner's dock in the Magistrate's court ?

DEWAN : This is the first occasion I have heard the needs of Changanachery in this matter and the question will be taken up and considered.

19. Need of a Magistrate's court at Parur.

MR. KURIAN JOHN (*Member, Parur taluk*) spoke on the need of a Second Class Magistrate's court at Parur. By the location of the Magistrates' courts at Alwaye, the people of Parur were put to great inconvenience. Similarly, there was great need for a First Class Magistrates' court at Alwaye, as the First Class Magistrate's court at Perumbavoor was far away from Parur.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Kurian John, orders are under issue authorising the Parur Tahsildar to exercise second class magisterial powers. So, that will meet the case for the time being.

20. Difficulties experienced by the litigant public in civil courts.

MR. RAMASUBBOO CHETTIYAR BHAGAVATI PERUMAL CHETTIYAR (*Member, Trading Classes, Kottar*) suggested the following reforms in the working of civil courts :

(1) In the posting of cases care should be taken to post only as many cases for a day as could be finished on that day.

(2) The depositions of all the witnesses summoned on a day should be taken the very same day.

(3) Decrees should be prepared within thirty days of the delivery of judgments.

(4) Disputes about immovable property arising in the execution of decrees should be settled at the latest within six months.

(5) Summons and notices should be served on the parties without default.

(6) In preparing copies of records, the rule regarding the number of words to be written on a page should be strictly enforced.

(7) Surplus sheets of copying paper remaining after the preparation of the copy should be returned to the party.

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(8) Copies of records should be given within seven days from the date of presentation of copying paper.

(9) Records relating to disposed of cases should be returned within two days of the presentation of the application.

(10) Records produced in courts should be carefully kept.

(11) Account books produced in courts should be kept under seal and the seal should be broken only in the presence of the party or his Vakil.

(12) Money deposited in courts should be readily disbursed to the claimants on their application.

(13) Applications for transfer of suits from one court to another should be immediately allowed.

(14) Affidavits should be insisted on only in special instances.

(15) The maximum period within which a suit should be disposed of should be limited to three years.

(16) Parties under arrest escaping from custody should be prosecuted. Where the peons were at fault, their conduct should be taken notice of.

(17) With a view to preventing mischievous protraction of trials, interest at the rate of 12 per cent. should be levied on plaint amounts from the date of the suit till the date of the judgment and interest at 9 per cent. after that.

(18) Unspent process fees and batta should be returned to parties.

(19) Statements of daily work of clerks should be prepared every day and examined by the chief ministerial officer. They should be examined once in seven days by the presiding officer.

(20) Tandaper accounts should be obtained from the Proverthicar instead of the Tahsildar, for the purpose of attachment of immovable property. This would save much time.

(21) High Court Judges inspecting the lower courts should devote at least four days for the inspection of each court.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Bagavathiperumal Chettiyar, on the last occasion your representation covered about 23 matters in relation to the working of courts. I think the views of the High Court on all those points were ascertained and communicated to you in Huzur letter No. 95 dated 12th January 1928. I think many of the points that you have taken up here to-day relate to points already taken there and in view of that, I do not propose to say anything more than has already been intimated to you. If there are any fresh points you wish to take up, I would suggest your doing as I asked you on the last occasion and that is, to select any 3 or 4 which you consider the most important and communicate them to the Chief Secretary and those will be examined as far as possible.

You want the clerks to do their work systematically and regularly, well, I shall pass orders on that.

21. Hardships caused to the public by the delay in the execution of decrees in Civil Courts.

MR. C. JOHN ABRAHAM (*Member, Trading Classes, Kottayam*) said that a decree-holder had at every step to bribe the subordinates of the civil courts before he could get a decree executed in time. Even to get the copy of a decree he had to depend on the favour of the record-keeper, examiner and other clerks. The same was the experience in the case of warrants and summons. Nor were Amins free from blame. If the value of a property was to be properly assessed, the Amin had to be paid something. And the decree holder was sure not to get a sanad unless he had the favour of the execution clerk. These malpractices had to be put an end to as early as possible. It would probably be useful if Munsiffs and Judges made it a point to enquire about the execution proceedings in their courts at least twice a week. It would also be useful if complaints against clerks and process peons were properly looked into by the officers. In addition to these, the appointment of a circuiting officer to examine execution proceedings in the several courts might serve as an effective remedy.

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